

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 /060 W

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P 041319Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, CZ, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT

REF: PRAGUE 1282

1. WHILE WAITING AT AIRPORT JUNE 4 FOR DAVID ROCKERFELLER ARRIVAL, ZANTOVSKY (HEAD SIXTH DEPT MFA) RAISED WITH CHARGE QUESTION OF EXTENDING CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT 18 MONTHS RATHER THAN 12. ZANTOVSKY SAID MFA WAS RELUCTANT TO BRING THIS UP FORMALLY, SINCE THE ONE-YEAR EXTENSION WAS IN TRAIN (THEY ARE DOING THE NECESSARY BUREAUCRATIC

WORK IN ORDER TO GET APPROVAL FOR THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES). HOWEVER, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND CSA WERE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF EXTENSION TO END 1976 RATHER THAN TO MAY 31, 1976, AND HE UNDERSTOOD PAN AM AGREED WITH THIS. (OF COURSE CZECHS HAD WANTED 3-YEAR EXTENSION ORIGINALLY.) CARRIERS DESIRED 18-MONTH EXTENSION BECAUSE MAY 31 FALLS IN MIDDLE OF SEASON, AND END-YEAR WOULD MAKE MUCH MORE SENSE AND CAUSE LESS DISRUPTION.

2. CHARGE SAID HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD FROM PAN AM REP IN PRAGUE THAT AIRLINE WANTED 18-MONTH EXTENSION, BUT HE WAS NOT INFORMED AS TO REASONS DEPARTMENT HAD REJECTED THIS IDEA IN FAVOR OF ONE-YEAR EXTENSION. CHARGE PROMISED TO RAISE THE MATTER 'INFORMALLY' WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO SEE IF THERE WAS STILL ANY POSSIBILITY OF MAKING THE LONGER EXTENSION.

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3. COMMENT: FROM EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW, LONGER EXTENSION
SEEMS TO MAKE SENSE AND WE SEE NOTHING AGAINST IT. WOULD
APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS PROMPTLY.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, AIR ROUTE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE01319
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750195-0028
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750682/aaaacwlv.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRAGUE 1282
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT
TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, CZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006